

SPORTS

flash

Tennis pro Pete Sampras wins the eighth grand-slam title of his career at the U.S. Open in September. Steffi Graf wins the U.S. Open Women's title, beating Monica Seles.

Pro boxer Mike Tyson loses his Heavyweight Champion of the World title to Evander Holyfield in a November match. Holyfield, a former two-time world champion, reclaims his title in the surprise win.

Chicago Bulls star Dennis Rodman furthers his controversial reputation by kicking a photographer in the groin during a game against the Minnesota Timberwolves in January 1997. Rodman is suspended for up to 11 games without pay, costing him more than \$1 million, in addition to a \$25,000 fine to the NBA, as well as a reported \$200,000 settlement with the photographer.

Baltimore Orioles second baseman Roberto Alomar is suspended for five games, deferred to the 1997 season, when he spits on an umpire during a heated argument over a questionable call in the National League play-offs. Controversy ensues over the leniency of the punishment.



Canapress

Team USA wins the World Cup of Hockey, beating Canada 5-2 in the final. Eight teams from Canada, Europe and the U.S. participate in the World Cup, which replaced the Canada Cup.



AP/Wide World

Twenty-year-old golfing phenom Eldrick "Tiger" Woods turns pro in August, making the transition from exceptional amateur golfer to well-endorsed professional, including a deal with Nike worth an estimated \$40 million.



Craig Jones, Allsport



Al Bello, Allsport

The New York Yankees win the World Series, beating the Atlanta Braves in a four-game sweep, after losing the first two games. It is the first series title for the Yankees since 1978.

In June, the Colorado Avalanche beat the Florida Panthers in the NHL Stanley Cup play-offs. The final game in the series remains scoreless until 1:05 a.m., when the Avalanche finally score the winning goal in the third overtime period.



Al Bello, Allsport

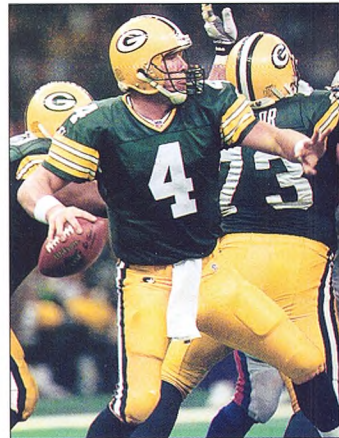


Reuters/Archive Photos

Paul Molitor of the Minnesota Twins becomes the 21st player in major league history to reach 3,000 career hits. The milestone is reached in September, when Molitor triples against Kansas City Royals rookie pitcher Jose Rosado.

Race car driver Terry Labonte wins NASCAR's Winston Cup championship with a total of 4,657 points after finishing fifth in the final race, the Napa 500, at the Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Led by quarterback Brett Favre, the Green Bay Packers beat the New England Patriots 35-21 in Super Bowl XXXI at the Louisiana Superdome. It is the Packers' first Super Bowl since 1968.

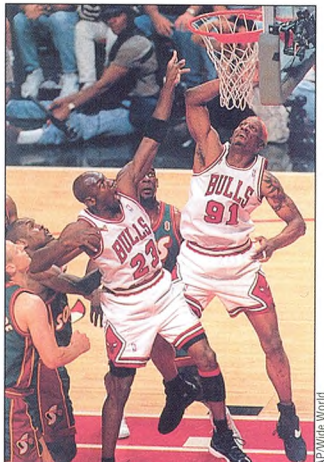



AP/Wide World



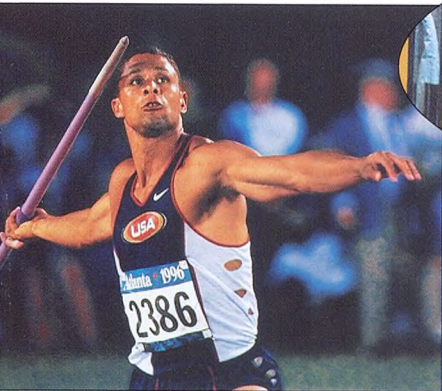
 The U.S. women's gymnastics team takes the gold at the Summer Olympics. Kerri Strug, second from right, is the heroine of the competition, landing her final vault despite a dislocated left ankle.

 U.S. swimmer Amy Van Dyken wins the women's 100-meter butterfly event at the Olympic Games with a time of 59.13 seconds. Van Dyken wins a total of four golds.




 The Chicago Bulls win their fourth NBA championship in six years as they defeat the Seattle SuperSonics in game six of the NBA finals on June 16.

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 U.S. Olympian Dan O'Brien racks up 8,824 points to take the gold medal in the decathlon, a grueling, 10-event track-and-field competition.

Al Bello, Allsport

 April 1996 marks the 100th running of the Boston Marathon. More than 38,000 contenders participate.



 Jean Driscoll (front right) of the U.S. takes the silver in the women's 800-meter wheelchair race, a demonstration sport, at the Summer Olympics. Driscoll, seven-time winner of the Boston Marathon, retires at the end of 1996, after setting several world records during her career.

 Olympic swimmer Tom Dolan captures another gold for the U.S. as he wins the 400-meter individual medley on July 21. Dolan wins with a time of 4:14.90.




Al Bello, Allsport




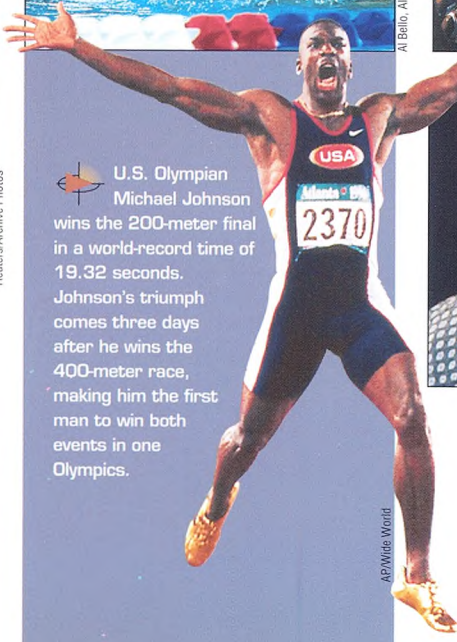
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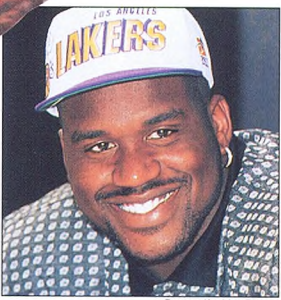
Reuters/Archive Photos

 Minnesota Twins star centerfielder Kirby Puckett announces his retirement from baseball in July. A serious eye ailment forces Puckett to give up the game, but he manages to maintain his upbeat attitude at press conferences and interviews.


 U.S. Olympian Michael Johnson wins the 200-meter final in a world-record time of 19.32 seconds. Johnson's triumph comes three days after he wins the 400-meter race, making him the first man to win both events in one Olympics.



AP/Wide World



Reuters/Archive Photos

 Basketball star Shaquille O'Neal jumps from the Orlando Magic to the Los Angeles Lakers in July. The deal is the richest in NBA history, paying O'Neal \$120 million over 7 years.